

songwriter Amy Grant on her inclusion in the 45th annual honoree class.

A quick glance at Amy's more than 40 years in the spotlight reveals an iconic popstar, songwriter, television personality, and philanthropist who never forgot her gospel roots. The thing that makes Amy special, though, isn't her long list of accolades, but how she used her personal faith in Christ to build bridges between the welcoming contemporary Christian genre and the secular confines of popular music.

All artist-songwriters find success when they strike at the very center of what makes the human heart ache, whether it be for a love found, a life lost, or the infinite potential of what could be. These emotions are humanity's great equalizers. But for gospel artist-songwriters, faith, and not emotion, is the touchstone. For these brave and gifted individuals, assurance comes not from an endless cycle of love, hurt, and healing, but from a far more enduring source of hope.

We could not be more pleased to see the Kennedy Center recognize the importance of Amy's work in helping new generations embrace that hope, and we join the artistic community in thanking her for sharing her gifts with the world.●

TRIBUTE TO BRENDA LEE

● Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, every year, Music City luminaries gather to celebrate entertainers and other giants in the arts with the Cecil Scaife Visionary Award. While statuettes do have their charms, this award highlights true champions of creativity whose life and work have made it possible for future generations to realize careers in the music industry. This year, I have the privilege of congratulating the oft imitated, never duplicated, positively incomparable Brenda Lee as she accepts this special honor.

Even in today's strange world of social media sensations and cross-discipline collaborations, success in the entertainment industry is hard to come by. And if mainstream popularity is a pipe dream, it is safe to consider crossover success on a global scale almost impossible to achieve.

Still, for many of Nashville's rising stars, this pinnacle of artistic achievement is the only measure of professional success worth striving for. But who is to mentor these dreamers? Who sets the standard? If you ask them, they will surely point to Brenda Lee.

Brenda Lee's stunning vocal talent put her on stage at 6, in the studio at 12, and on the international tour circuit by her early teens. Her third single climbed both the pop and country charts, and over the next 20 years, she achieved pop stardom, pop-to-country crossover success, and international fame. That she did this at all is remarkable; but how she did it is what makes Brenda Lee a phenomenon. Her career was not the product of clever

gimmicks, but the manifestation of her own personal tastes, desires, and instincts in song. In a world of mimics, Brenda Lee dismissed convention and created something new.

I have always believed that there is no secret sauce that separates the successful from the legendary, but if there is, its main ingredient is surely the spark of captivating individualism that Brenda embraced over the course of her more than 60 years in the spotlight. And while young artists could never hope to replicate her career, her legacy serves as a reminder that, yes, you can conquer this industry, if only you have the courage to do it on your own terms.●

TRIBUTE TO RAY STEVENS

● Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, today I rise to honor a true Music City legend. For more than 50 years, Ray Stevens has delighted audiences with his talents as a comedian, an actor, a musician, and a songwriter. His unique vision for the future of entertainment allowed him to blaze trails no other artists would dare tread alone.

As a fellow Tennessean, and one of Ray's biggest fans, you can believe me when I say that you have never seen anything like Ray Stevens. It would have been easy for him to justify resting on his laurels while Music City grew around him, but if you know Ray, you know that was never a possibility. Although he achieved fame for his work in the creative arts, he is best known for leading with laughter, kindness, and an unflinching desire to encourage fellow artists.

In 1971, Ray and a group of fellow Music Row luminaries led by Cecil Scaife came together to create a music business program at Belmont University, where aspiring entertainers could exercise both their talents and their business acumen. This tremendous effort changed the industry for the better and set an example for the city's rising stars. Today, the Cecil Scaife Visionary Award is given annually to those whose life and work have made it possible for future generations to realize careers in the music industry, and I could not have been happier when I learned that Ray is one of this year's recipients.

Ray, on behalf of all Tennesseans, I thank you for your devotion to the arts, your zest for life, and for going above and beyond on behalf all who hope to walk in your footsteps.●

TRIBUTE TO LAUREN CAULFIELD AND RONDA CHRYSTAL

● Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I am honored to recognize Lauren Caulfield and Ronda Chrystal of Brookline as November's Granite Staters of the Month. The pair founded Pink Revolution in order to support cancer patients with chemo care packages and financial support.

When Lauren was being treated for breast cancer, she noticed that not every patient had the same level of support that she did during this difficult time. Some were arriving to chemotherapy sessions alone or had to skip sessions because they couldn't afford it. After her recovery, Lauren decided she wanted to take action, and alongside her longtime friend Ronda, she founded Pink Revolution Breast Cancer Alliance of NH to support patients with all types of cancer.

Lauren and Ronda started by reaching out to friends and family touched by cancer and ultimately built a network of volunteers to put together 1,500 chemo care packages a year to deliver to 25 oncology centers in New Hampshire, Vermont, and Massachusetts. The care packages contain essential items such as blankets, tissues, and lip balm, as well as some items with personal touches, such as hats knitted by residents at nursing homes. In addition, the nonprofit fundraises to provide chemo patients—some of whom struggle with costs during their treatment—with gas and grocery cards.

After undergoing chemotherapy, Lauren decided to find the silver lining in her experience by helping others. With their hard work over the past 4 years, Lauren and Ronda have made a true difference in many Granite Staters' lives as they face serious medical hardship. Lauren and Ronda's work leading Pink Revolution exemplifies the Granite State spirit of generosity, and I commend them and their large network of volunteers.●

REMEMBERING FELIPE VALLS, SENIOR

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I pay tribute to the life and legacy of Cuban-American businessman and icon, Felipe Valls, Sr., who unfortunately passed away. Many know Valls Sr. as the founder of world-renowned Versailles Cuban Restaurant, but many more know of the indelible mark he left on the Cuban exile community throughout south Florida. His life was a true testament to the American dream and he demonstrated a well-lived life in a nation that welcomed him and gave him the opportunity to create a culinary landmark in my home State of Florida. Felipe's legacy will live on through his beloved family and friends. Jeanette and I unite in prayer for the repose of the soul of this great Cuban-American entrepreneur.●

TRIBUTE TO OSVALDO DE LA PEDRAJA

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I recognize Dr. Osvaldo De La Pedraja on his more than 60-year career in the medical field and for celebrating his 92nd birthday on November 19, 2022.

Osvaldo graduated as a doctor of medicine from the Medical School of the University of Havana, Cuba in 1960. Three years later, he was expelled from